

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the matter of the joint application of)	
CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE)	
and THE TRAVERSE CITY LIGHT AND POWER)	Case No. U-18342
DEPARTMENT for approval of an agreement for)	
the transfer and exchange of electric distribution)	
facilities and accounts.)	
_____)	

At the May 31, 2017 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing,
Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. Sally A. Talberg, Chairman
Hon. Norman J. Saari, Commissioner
Hon. Rachael A. Eubanks, Commissioner

ORDER

On March 10, 2017, Cherryland Electric Cooperative (Cherryland) and The Traverse City Light and Power Department (TCLP) filed a joint application seeking *ex parte* approval of an agreement, pursuant to MCL 460.54 and MCL 460.10y(4), for the transfer and exchange of certain service areas, electric distribution facilities, easements, and approximately 100 customer accounts of each utility.

Cherryland is a Michigan non-profit corporation operating as a member-regulated cooperative serving approximately 35,000 electric members near Traverse City, Michigan. The application states that the Commission retains jurisdiction over certain aspects, including, but not limited to service area, of all member-regulated cooperatives. MCL 460.36(2).

TCLP is a Michigan municipal electric utility established in 1912 serving Traverse City, Michigan.

The agreement, attached to the application as Exhibit 1, provides for the transfer and exchange of certain service areas, electric distribution facilities, easements, and accounts. The parties agree that the transfers and exchanges of the items described in the agreement will better serve their respective members and customers and provide more cohesive and congruent service areas. The parties also recognize the long-term benefits of the agreement to their respective members and customers attendant with improvements to each utility's infrastructure and efficiencies. The parties assert that the agreement is the result of good-faith negotiations and will benefit the utilities as well as the members and customers served by the utilities.

To ensure customers had proper notice and were being treated fairly, the Commission Staff requested more detailed information regarding the companies' contacts with customers regarding the transfer and exchange. From the documentation provided, the Commission is satisfied that customers had proper, timely notice and are being treated fairly, and there is nothing in the documentation to suggest the application should be denied.

The Commission has reviewed the application, agreement, and additional documentation, and finds that the application should be approved. *Ex parte* approval is appropriate because no ratemaking determination was requested by the parties.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the March 10, 2017 joint application of Cherryland Electric Cooperative and The Traverse City Light and Power Department is approved.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

Any party desiring to appeal this order must do so in the appropriate court within 30 days after issuance and notice of this order, under MCL 462.26. To comply with the Michigan Rules of Court's requirement to notify the Commission of an appeal, appellants shall send required notices to both the Commission's Executive Secretary and to the Commission's Legal Counsel. Electronic notifications should be sent to the Executive Secretary at mpscedockets@michigan.gov and to the Michigan Department of the Attorney General - Public Service Division at pungpl@michigan.gov. In lieu of electronic submissions, paper copies of such notifications may be sent to the Executive Secretary and the Attorney General - Public Service Division at 7109 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Sally A. Talberg, Chairman

Norman J. Saari, Commissioner

Rachael A. Eubanks, Commissioner

By its action of May 31, 2017.

Kavita Kale, Executive Secretary